



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/540,970	12/02/2005	Staffan Schager	1816	4054
20676	7590	03/25/2008	EXAMINER	
ALFRED J MANGELS			MITCHELL, JOEL F	
4729 CORNELL ROAD				
CINCINNATI, OH 452412433			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/25/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/540,970	SCHAGER, STAFFAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joel F. Mitchell	3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McKnight (US 3,187,912).**

3. With respect to claim 1, McKnight discloses a loader for agricultural tractors (9) equipped with hydraulically maneuverable (col. 3, lines 57-62), parallel lifting arms (25) which are pivotally mounted at the rear part of the tractor together with a center attachment member (including 15, 20, 21) between the lifting arms, said loader comprising:

two parallel loader arms (18) including means for attachment (including 16, 17, 19, 27) of the loader arms to respective tractor-mounted lifting arms to extend rearwardly (seen in Figs. 1-4); and

a hydraulically extendable center rod (14) including an inner end (37) for connection with the center attachment member;

wherein the extendable center rod extends outwardly from the center attachment member to an outer end (38A) at a working implement (10);

wherein the center rod includes along its length a hydraulic piston-cylinder device (36, 38), movement of the piston (38) of which functions to change the length of the center rod and to thereby tilt the working implement (seen in Figs. 1-3);

wherein outer ends of respective loader arms (18) and an outer end (38A) of the center rod (14) are connected (loader arms connect via 23, 24; center rod connects via 39) to the working implement (10), whereby the working implement is lifted by the loader arms and is tilted by the hydraulically extendable center rod. (seen in Figs. 1-3)

4. With respect to claim 2, McKnight discloses a loader wherein the loader arms are inclined upwards in a region outwardly of and close to an outer end of a respective lifting arm. (18 shown inclined with respect to 25 in Fig. 2)
5. With respect to claim 3, McKnight discloses a loader wherein respective outer ends of loader arms (18) and the outer end (38A) of the center rod (14) include attachment means (loader arms attach via 23, 24; center rod attaches via 39) for attachment to a working implement (10).
6. With respect to claim 4, McKnight discloses a loader wherein the inclination of the loader arms relative to the lifter arms is adjustable (via pivotal connections at 27).
7. With respect to claim 5, McKnight discloses a loader wherein the connecting means included at the outer ends of respective loader arms (18) include a pivot adapted

to pivotally support the working implement (col. 3, lines 40-43) and wherein at the outer end (38A) of the center rod (14) is a pivot joint adapted for pivotal connection to the working implement (col. 4, lines 9-12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKnight.**

10. McKnight discloses a loader with regard to claim 1, above. McKnight does not explicitly disclose spaced attachment points at the outer end of the center rod. McKnight discloses spaced attachment points (35) at the outer end of a support member (30), wherein the attachment points are spaced at mutually different distances (Figs. 1-3) from the inner end of said member.

11. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the outer end (38A) of the center rod (14) of McKnight with attachment points. The motivation being “to enable adjustment thereof relative to the frame” (col. 4, lines 1-2) and thereby increasing the range and possible effective lengths of the center rod (14).

12. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKnight in view of Hare (US 4,103,796).

13. With respect to claim 8, McKnight discloses a loader wherein the loader arms are secured to respective lifting arms via cotter pins (27C) and wherein the loader arms extend below the lifting arms (seen in Figs. 1, 3). McKnight does not explicitly disclose the loader arms abutting the lifting arms. Hare discloses a bucket attachment wherein inner ends of respective loader arms (55a, 55b) are secured to a respective lifting arm (14, 16) by means of cotter pins (68); and wherein respective loader arms extend below (Fig. 1) respective lifting arms and abut an underside of a respective lifting arm (14 abuts 55a, 16 abuts 55b).

14. McKnight and Hare are analogous because they both disclose rear tractor-mounted implements that suspend and control buckets. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the loader as taught by McKnight with the means to abut the loader arms with an underside of the lifting arms as taught by Hare. The motivation being to eliminate material from the frame (11).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joel F. Mitchell whose telephone number is (571)272-7689. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on (571) 272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thomas B Will/
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 3671

JFM
3/17/8

Joel F. Mitchell
Examiner
Art Unit 3671